



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers®**

Nashville District
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, TN 37202-1070

News Release

07-60

Release No.

IMMEDIATE

For Release: November 27, 2007

Bill Peoples bill.peoples@us.army.mil

Contact:

(615) 736-7834

Phone:

Corps Drafts Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Dam

Powerhouse Rehabilitations and Possible Operational Changes

NASHVILLE, TENN. (November 27, 2007) –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today its intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Dam Powerhouse Rehabilitations and Possible Operational Changes at the Wolf Creek, Center Hill, and Dale Hollow Dams in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Corps Officials are studying the possible impacts of modifying existing equipment. Due to improvements in technology, rehabilitating the equipment could make it possible to produce more power from the same amount of water discharged. Changes in equipment and operational procedures could also cause higher tailwater heights and velocities.

In addition, alterations to flow regimes are being considered to provide minimum flows when hydropower releases are discontinued. If improvements are successful, other dams may eventually be considered for similar changes.

This study was begun in 2003 and a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on September 25, 2003; however, due to funding constraints work ceased before a Draft EIS could be completed. The proposed rehabilitation of the powerhouse and generating units is not related to the dam seepage repairs that are ongoing at Center Hill and Wolf Creek Dams.

-more-

To Better Serve The Public

The intent of the DEIS is to provide National Environmental Policy Act compliance for changes in design features and operating procedures of the Wolf Creek, Center Hill, and Dale Hollow Dams in the Cumberland River system.

All three dams are of a similar age, have similar turbines and related equipment, and have similar proposed rehabilitation and operational changes. Operating and equipment changes that will be studied could potentially affect more than 60 miles of tailwaters in the Cumberland River System. A result of these should be higher dissolved oxygen levels that meet the minimum state water quality standards, although flows and elevations could also be altered for a significant distance. The Cumberland River includes ten dams and reservoirs.

The Ten projects are managed as one system with the goal of managing the flow of water through the entire Cumberland River basin. If the proposed changes prove desirable, they could set a precedent for future rehabilitations at other hydropower facilities.

Written scoping comments on issues to be considered in the DEIS will be accepted by the Corps of Engineers until December 26, 2007. Scoping comments should be mailed to: Mr. Chip Hall, Project Planning Branch, Nashville District Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1070 (PM-P), Nashville, TN 37202-1070, or may be e-mailed to hydropower.rehab@Lrn02.usace.army.mil.